

Water - Wetlands  
(Palenville, NY)  
DECA 15-89, RPL 15346  
89

**Zachos, George**

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**From:** Zachos, George  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 10:34 AM  
**To:** Wilk, John  
**Subject:** RE: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York - (DECA No. 15-89, RPL No. 15346)

You are very welcome!

**From:** Wilk, John  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** Zachos, George  
**Subject:** Re: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York - (DECA No. 15-89, RPL No. 15346)

Thanks George!

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**From:** Zachos, George  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** Wilk, John  
**Cc:** Thomas, Derval; Mieles, Janette; Freeman, Martin  
**Subject:** RE: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York - (DECA No. 15-89, RPL No. 15346)

Good Morning John,

We have already responded to a similar letter from Ms. Martin (attached).  
Agree, this is a NYSDEC lead site and we believe that the DEC is working with her to resolve her concerns.

Have a nice day,  
George

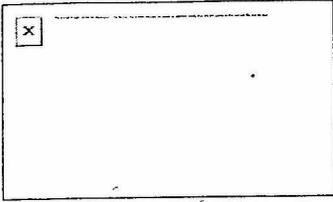
**From:** Wilk, John  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2015 9:45 AM  
**To:** Zachos, George  
**Cc:** Thomas, Derval; Mieles, Janette  
**Subject:** Re: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York -

Hi George,

Any interest in the complaint below which alleges NYSDEC is not conducting an investigation of a site in Palenville, NY a timely manner or efficiently?

Otherwise, right now RCB has no plans to get involved.

John



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From: [mieles.janette@epa.gov](mailto:mieles.janette@epa.gov) <[mieles.janette@epa.gov](mailto:mieles.janette@epa.gov)>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 2:09 PM  
To: Wilk, John  
Subject: FWD: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York

12/09/2014  
SUBJECT: FWD: (RCRA/Solid Waste - FY15-123918-3708-CV) Referred to Region - New York  
FROM: [mieles.janette@epa.gov](mailto:mieles.janette@epa.gov)  
TO: [Wilk.John@epa.gov](mailto:Wilk.John@epa.gov)  
CC:

-----Original Message-----

12/1/2014 11:40 AM

HQ LEAD NUMBER: FY15-123918-3708-CV

SUBJECT: Referred to Region - New York

FROM: [stellarenee75@yahoo.com](mailto:stellarenee75@yahoo.com)

TO:

Name: Stella martin

Address: 2851 rte 23A

City: palenville

State: New York

Zip: 12463

Phone: home-(518) 678-1126 cell-(518) 947-4286

Alleged Violator's Name: Fred Edwards I I I trucking/escavating

Alleged Violator's Address: 3050 rte 23A

Alleged Violator's City: palenville

Alleged Violator's State: New York

Alleged Violator's Zip: 12463

Tip or Complaint: To whom it may concern, My name is Stella Martin, I am a single mother blessed with 3 wonderful children, I own my home, and reside in Palenville, Greene County N.Y., and my neighbor is Fred Edwards the 3rd Trucking/Excavating business property. For a couple years now (with D.E.C. investigation ongoing) Mr. Edwards has done extensive damage to not only his property, but to my property, my private well, that has made myself, and children VERY ill, the neighbors on his other side, that are now showing similar signs of illnesses, possibly other residents of Palenville, as well as the damage to the Protected Wetlands, that is supposed to be N.Y. protected waterways because it does also run down into the Saugerties reservoir. It has been a very slow process to try to get people to understand the extent of his damage, we have videos (that are only suggestive), that the neighbor (from the other side of Mr. Edwards property), Roland Hackett witnessed the whole scenario, of him dumping garbage and burying it, and Roland Hackett, signed a sworn statement to the fact, photos of seeing slime from run off of the very large mound of possibly 30ft to higher, and the photos show that part of the contents are plastic containers, and pieces of garbage bags, construction debris, and that this is what he is filling around the property, into the waterways, even photos of large oil barrels, in the pond, seeping oil into the waterway, signed sworn statements with the D.E.C. from myself, and the neighbors of witnessing him dumping garbage and covering it with soil or mulch. When we share our experience with the D.E.C., about what we have witnessed about the garbage being dumped, and then covered with soil, layer after layer, and then Mr. Hackett, sharing his experience of witnessing burying many tires and covering them with mulch or dirt they always ask if we have photos (which we have some), I guess because technology has become so available in our society everything needs to be a photo, since when is an eyewitness sworn statement not good enough for law enforcement any longer? There have been many issues squashed with the town government, and D.E.C, and left behind in this matter. Every incident, and concern, brought to the Catskill Town Government has been neglected, I do believe a large reason for this, is Mr. Edwards wife retired, working for the town clerk of Catskill, also I believe, that is a very large reason why he has never gotten any permits, or that heads were turned while illegally tripling his land by filling in this waterway, or the very many, very large trucks from the city at 3am dumping construction debris, and contaminated material down the hill, into the protected wetlands, to extend his property, also as to why every concern is neglected. With his wife's career working for the clerk's office, I doubt he can deny knowing that he would have needed permits for his activities. I have had enough of the waiting, and getting very confused answers from departments (especially the D.E.C.) that are here, and supposed to be available to help protect the beauty and clarity of the Catskills, myself, and my children have been affected medically from the contaminated soil, and dust from the debris, with placing mulch, fertilizers, etc. so close to my home, and right above my well, that I have tested twice (with each test containing two tested per contaminate), and has come up very hazardous (results are below), the tests were off the charts for contamination, which is everything that would come from his activity. Mr. Hackett's family, now has well water that smells like sewage, and their family is experiencing similar ailments as my family, that is progressing rapidly. This protected N.Y. State waterways behind our homes, that has been filled with contaminated debris, runs up behind Palenville, which will, to some extent also pollute other residents property's and water, also this protected waterway that was recorded as such back in the 70's was also because this water creeps down through streams, and creeks into the Saugerties Reservoir, that the Town residents drink. I have been asked by numerous people concerned to this date, with the knowledge officials have, WHY HASN'T THE WATER QUALITY BEEN TESTED below the large contaminated dumping site, in the protected wetlands that has possibly, or will contaminate other residents of Palenville, and the Town of Saugerties???? If my water so polluted, which is somewhat uphill from the dumping site, I CANT IMAGINE the quality of water below the massive pile of contaminated debris. This is such a beautiful area, my HOME with my children, and with many tourists that come here, because they believe that this is a clean quality area to be, and bring their families. Well it's NOT with greedy business men that pollute the area to line their own pockets, and to line the pockets of those to turn their heads. I am trying to get this information public for residents, that can possibly be affected so their children don't have to feel like mine, or have to explain to them why they're children are different because of people's greed, or wonder why their mother is sick, and can't be that energetic mother they were used to. Or the mothers feeling the pain, that they can't be the mother they want to be in their hearts, because of medical ailments, and feeling the pain of someone poisoning their family. What would you do for your family? This is NOT a neighborly squabble, I had absolutely nothing at all against Fred Edwards, he seemed like a gentleman, I thought he was a respectful man with morals, until I came across his Contamination/pollution, and intentions. I found that he was poisoning the land of the community, and most of all that he was dumping and poisoning my family all while hearing my children play and laugh in our front yard, and then, YES, I now have an issue with the quality of man that he is, that he is able to pollute my family, and the residents, and even possibly the residents of the Town of Saugerties, while all of this is to line his own pockets, I have recognized that he is a sick man blinded by the addiction of greed. When Roland Hackett asked Mr. Edwards how far he was going to fill-in the waterways, he announced to him with his greed, and arrogance "As far, until they stop me".. Mr. Hackett, and myself have contacted many people from the town, with only denial, and cold shoulder, Mr. Hackett once stated to the

old D.E.C. case manager Nancy Heaslip (now retired, and replaced by Marcia Ellis) how much Mr. Edwards has filled in, with the reply of "Fred said he didn't" The wonderful thing about satellite imagery these days, is that you can go back, and see how much activity has transpired, and how much he has altered the waterway, without permits or permission, with illegal waste and debris. I have spoken to activists that will be working on this contamination issue. I am sending, and calling on elected officials to help clean-up the area they are supposed to be protecting. This is why I am sending this message out, at some point someone will need to know why this has gone on this long, so when confronted with reporters and such, someone might be able to come up with a solution to tell the public. There is SOOOOO much more to this story, please contact me if you have any questions, and I hope with concerns, I have so much information I would love to share, as well as information that would make it so easy for someone to follow-up on the investigation and see that there has been an obvious problem with getting help to move forward, like the 3 incident numbers from the D.E.C. which is frustrating because D.E.C. has been called here more than 3 times, times and dates of calls, who I've made contact with, etc. There are steps that can be taken to help protect the community with this contaminated dumping, I hope whom ever, or whatever steps can be taken, I hope they WILL be taken, and not just read in the newspaper after my death from pollution. My family's health issues are real, and progressing. Like seizures with memory loss, breathing problems, severe weight loss, I don't fit in my clothes anymore, (nothing but skin and bones), losing my hair, both my 9 year old boy, and 6 year old girl now diagnosed with AD/HD, my 6 year old girl is having scalp issues from showering in the water, and breathing problems also from the polluted dust he is kicking up, like myself, my 16 year old girl with unexplained headaches, The mother on the other side is now starting to experience seizures, and her 15 year old daughter is now having unexplained headaches. I will, and others will, continue to try to be heard, and steps taken for our family's health, and our community's safety. I am MORE than willing to share all of the evidence I have, the family on the other side of Mr. Edwards is also more than willing. We can, and will share the evidence of photos, video, and other evidence accrued. I do have in my possession, the 3 incident numbers with the D.E.C.) that has been dragging their feet, and dismissing VERY important information. The D.E.C. has violated Mr. Edwards, but only the aspect for filling-in protected wetlands, without any respect from Mr. Fred Edwards to respond and take action to their requests. For the first violation, Mr. Edwards was told to remove either 20 or 30 ft. back and 20 or 30ft. down from the wetlands, and move the debris uphill, than there was a negotiation between the D.E.C. and Mr. Edwards for him to ONLY remove a VERY SMALL PART of the debris out of the wetlands, and authorized it to be placed it uphill (not remove it), which is 20-30 feet from the neighbors front door, which the new D.E.C. agent Marcia Ellis (whom is authorizing, and moving forward with legal) wasn't even aware that the neighbor's house was there?? I spoke with a supervisor named Jerry Fraine from Sanford a couple weeks ago, he was confused, but seemed concerned, he put me in touch with the new case manager named Marcia Ellis @ (518)357-2092, that was Very confused of the facts from any of this situation, when I told Mrs. Ellis of my polluted well, she asked me to send her the test results because she was unaware, but concerned when I simply told her the results. I was told I needed to also speak with division of water through the D.E.C., @ (518)357-2045, because it is also illegal to pollute the soil, and water around. When I showed Marcia where my well was on the G.I.S. map over the phone, she said it could only be polluted from his property run off as well. The information of pollution to the water has been given from the very first day the D.E.C. was contacted around 2 years ago. How can they proceed forward without the important information? They haven't proceeded with anything concerning the quality of water and land that has been contaminated???? Or the health concerns that has been endured, and will be caused by this pollution. I am confused that if Mr. Edwards walked over to my home, and punched my child in the face, and bruised my child's eye, he would be arrested, and be made accountable for his actions, so why, when he has caused harm to my family, and others, from the inside out, bruises that won't just go away, WHY is he not being made accountable for polluting so much area, and allowed to still continue with a business grown by illegal acts? Why isn't he being forced to remove his contaminates, and clean up the pollution? When Mr. Hackett was told by Nancy Heaslip that he was violated by the D.E.C. wetlands division, and told to only remove part of his fill-in, and that it was authorized for Mr. Edwards to move the debris to the portion next to Mr. Hackett's home, which would further contaminate Mr. Hackett's home, and family, and also cause severe flooding to his home, so Mr. Hackett asked why he didn't have to remove it ALL, and remove it from the property (since it was there illegally), Nancy Heaslip replied "Well that would put him out of business!".... How is that our problem? His business is built on contamination, and pollution. Mr. Edwards did this to himself, and the surrounding community, and needs to be accountable for his own actions.. We are not responsible for his greed, but my family is sick as a result of it. I have worked very hard, and made many sacrifices to make this a home for my children, this is all i have (besides memories) to leave behind for them, and with my poor health progressing as it is, I am very afraid that it will be a toxic waste dump that will replace the space in their heart that was once their home. I hope to thank you in advance for any effort put forth to help my family, the residents of Palenville, and the surrounding communities... My contact information is: Stella Martin (518)-947-4286 cell # (518)678-1126 home # 2851 rte. 23a Palenville, N.Y. 12463 Email @ [stellarenee75@yahoo.com](mailto:stellarenee75@yahoo.com) The business information is: Fred Edwards III, trucking/excavating, besides my home with the business address shown as; 3050 rte. 23A (or can also be shown on the GIS map, through my home address as 2851 rte. 23A) Palenville, NY 12463. Neighbor on the other side of him with a great deal of concern, and evidence is Rowland Hackett that can be contacted @ (845)706-1758. My home, well/tap water test: performed on 10/09/2014 2 tests done for each test and, each was the same for all of these tests, tested twice. Chlorine- both tests - .5ppm- any chlorine is hazardous Copper- both tests- 1.3ppm- over 1ppm is hazardous Nitrates- both tests - 10ppm- 10 ppm is

hazardous Nitrogen/Nitrites -0.ppm - 1ppm is hazardous Hardness - both tests - 25 grains = 425ppm - 170ppm is considered very hazardous PH - both tests -7 - 7.8 is hazardous Alkalinity - both tests - 240 ppm - above 180 is considered hazardous Iron - both tests- 1 ppm - .3ppm is standard Pesticides - ? Lead - ? Bacteria - both tests - Positive, completely yellow, very hazardous. Atrazine - both tests - 3ppb Simazine - both tests --4ppb

Specific Directions: Go to address 2851 rte 23a that goes to Palenville from catskill, the address has a blue sign that says the business name, and also an old antique tractor, in the driveway, it is optional to either go straight or left, make the left and the business is the first right, or my home is the second right.

Violation Still Occurring? Yes

State DEP/DEQ/DEM Notified? Yes

